THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Since November, 1983, when the Special Approvals Committee was set up, 232 applications have been approved in the field of electronics industries and another 147 applications have been approved in the fields of engineering and metallurgical industries.

(b) The largest number of applications approved are from NRI investors from U.S.A.

P.M.'s tour of Tamil Nadu

1618. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visits made by the Prime Minister to Tamil Nadu during 1988 and 1989;

(b) how many of these visits were classified as official and how many as private or political; and

(c) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred by tht Central and the State Governments on these visits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Prime Minister made twelve visits to Tamil Nadu from January, 1988 to January, 1989.

(b) Of these, nine visits were for officials purposes and three for unofficial purposes.

(c) The Prime Minister uses Indian Air Force aircraft for tours. Recoveries at the prescibed rates are made for journeys performed for non-official purposes. The State Governments make arrangements for security and maintenance of law and order when the Prime Minister visits the States. Information as to the expenditure incurred on these items by the State Governments are not compiled by the Central Government.

Violation of FERA by the Chairman, Bombay Dyeing

1619. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case has been registered against the Chairman, Bombay Dyeing, who is a British citizen, under Section 19 (1) (e) of FERA for his foreign investment on 48000 shares in Nepal based sterling industrial agencies without the permission of R.B.I. ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) has initiated adjudication proceedings by issue of a show cause notice to Shri Nusli Wadia for acquisition of 48000 shares of paid up value of Rs. 3,18,000/- of M/s. Sterling Industrial Agencies Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal, without the permission of R.B.I., in violation of the provisions of section 19 (1) (e) of the F.E.R. Act, 1973. Shri Nusli Wadia has obtained stay order from the Bombay High Court against the adjudication proceedings.

Escape of Smugglers from Porbandar Jail

1620. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven smugglers involved in smuggling a huge quantity of gold escaped from Porbandar jail in the last week of September, 1988 because of the inept handling of the matter by the police and the Customs department;